

ADVISORY OPINION 97-010

Any advisory opinion rendered by the registry under subsection (1) or (2) of this section may be relied upon only by the person or committee involved in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the advisory opinion is required. KRS 121. 135(4).

December 10, 1997

Mr. Ira E. Branham  
P.O. Box 1499  
Pikeville, Kentucky 41502

Dear Mr. Branham:

This is in response to your November 10, 1997, request for an advisory opinion asking whether your law firm may continue broadcasting its regular program which does not mention nor suggest that you are a candidate. You further state that your firm offered a thirty (30) minute program titled "ON THE LAW," and various thirty (30) second and sixty (60) second advertising spots prior to your announcement as a candidate.

Provided that your firm's program does not "expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, slate of candidates, or group of candidates for nomination or election to any public office," it would not be a contribution as defined by KRS 121.015(6) or a political advertisement as defined by KRS 121.065(2) and thus, not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance.

Therefore, if your firm's broadcast does not advocate your candidacy for public office, it is not political advertising within the meaning of KRS Chapter 121. Your firm may continue its regular broadcasts which were airing before your candidacy and which are intended to promote your firm to clients and address general legal issues.

Sincerely,

Rosemary F. Center  
General Counsel

RFC/db